

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY BERN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1432

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AMEMBASSY MADRID

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS SP, SZ

SUBJ: SWISS REACTION TO SPANISH EXECUTIONS

1. DEMONSTRATIONS IN MAJOR SWISS CITIES SEPTEMBER 28
PROTESTED EXECUTIONS IN SPAIN. LARGEST DEMONSTRATION
WAS IN GENEVA WHERE 4000 DEMONSTRATORS CLASHED WITH POLICE,
RESULTING IN SOME INJURIES. SPANISH CONSULATES IN BASEL
AND LUGANO WERE BRIEFLY OCCUPIED BY DEMONSTRATORS. POLICE
REPORT DEMONSTRATIONS WERE ON BIGGEST SCALE SINCE FALL OF
ALLENDE.

2. SWISS FEDERAL COUNCIL (I.E. GOS EXECUTIVE) ISSUED
STATEMENT SEPTEMBER 30 MAKING FOLLOWING POINTS: A) FEDERAL
COUNCIL HAD PREVIOUSLY MADE DEMARCHES WHICH NOT MADE PUBLIC
AT THE TIME, TO SPANISH GOVERNMENT, TO STAY THE EXECUTIONS;
B) FEDERAL COUNCIL WAS NOW LIFTING ITS PUBLIC SILENCE,
"PROFOUNDLY SHOCKED" THAT SPANISH AUTHORITIES HAD NOT
HEEDED PRESSING APPEALS FROM ALL OVER WORLD; C) THE SWISS
GOVERNMENT SHARES THE INDIGNATION AND SADNESS ALREADY
EXPRESSED BY ALL ELEMENTS OF THE SWISS PEOPLE. IT FEELS
A "GRAVE DISQUIET" ABOUT THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE EVENTS
FOR THE FUTURE OF SPAIN: D) IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, IT IS
RECALLING THE SWISS AMBASSADOR IN MADRID FOR CONSULATIONS.

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3. REPRESENTATIVES OF ALL FOUR GOVERNMENT PARTIES ISSUED STATEMENTS CONDEMNING THE EXECUTIONS. SWISS PRESS, EVEN NORMALLY CONSERVATIVE PAPERS, UNANIMOUSLY CRITICIZED THE EXECUTIONS AND EXPRESSED FEARS THAT THE FUTURE FOR SPAIN LOOKED BLACK.
ODELL

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